REMARKS

The final Office Action was issued on pending claims 1-18. Claims 1, 2, 5-7 and 14 stand allowed, claim 18 stands rejected, and claims 3, 4, 8-13 and 15-17 are withdrawn from consideration. In this Response, claims 3, 8 and 15 have been amended, claims 4, 9-13, and 16-18 have been cancelled and no claims have been added. Thus, claims 1-3, 5-8, 14 and 15 are pending in the application.

Applicant invites the Examiner to call Applicant's Representative to discuss any issues with this application.

Allowable Claims

The Office Action at page 5 states that claims 1, 2, 5-7 and 14 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the notice of allowed claims.

Election/Restriction

Referring to page 2 of the Office Action, claims 3, 4, 8-13, and 15-17 were withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to nonelected species. Claim 1 is generic to Species I, II, III, and IV. Accordingly, Applicant is entitled to consideration of claims 3, 8 and 15 which fall within those species. Claims 3, 8 and 15 have been amended to be consistent with claims 1 and 6.

Claims 4, 9-13, 16 and 17 have been cancelled without prejudice for possible filing in a continuation application.

Specification Objection

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Abstract was objected to for informalities and the Office Action states the substitute Abstract submitted with the last Response was not entered into the file. The revised Abstract is enclosed which corrects informalities in the Abstract. The

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revised Abstract is supported by the application as originally filed and no new subject matter has been added.

Applicant submits the specification (Abstract) objection has been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

At pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action claim 18 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Aronsson (WO 97/38243) and as being anticipated by Holmberg (US 5,924,178). Applicant respectfully disagrees. However, claim 18 has been cancelled to quickly move the application to issuance.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the patent application is in condition for allowance and requests a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,
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